



International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers

31st IAMSLIC Annual Conference

Information for Responsible Fisheries: Libraries as Mediators

10 - 14 October 2005, Rome, Italy

This year the Conference will be held in cooperation with the Fisheries Department, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in Rome (Italy).

The International Association of Aquatic and Marine Science Libraries and Information Centers (**IAMSLIC**) was founded in 1975 and today has over 300 members in 70 countries. **IAMSLIC** provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and expertise. Its membership is international, with representation from developed and developing countries in all regions. Facilitating the sharing of information resources and expertise is one of the important contributions of **IAMSLIC** towards bridging information inequalities and providing speedy access to a broader information base.

The 2005 Conference will explore:

- the nature, availability and accessibility of fisheries information in different regions of the world;
- the role of libraries as mediators in providing access to information across disciplines from global sources;
- opportunities through partnerships and collaboration to promote shared standards and methodologies, especially in support of a digital framework to improve access to aquatic science information;
- Open Access and Open Archives - the need for new skills and stronger collaboration between libraries.

<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/nefsclibrary/2005iamslic/2005home.html>



FishCode was established by the FAO Fisheries Department as a programme of global partnerships to promote responsible fisheries. It serves as a principal means through which the Department seeks to combine its regular budget with Trust Fund resources in support of activities to facilitate implementation of the 1995 Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and related international fisheries instruments.

Critical to the implementation of the Code of Conduct, as explicitly recognized in its substantive articles (articles 7 to 12), is the availability of two broad categories of information. These are:

- general information about the goals, scope and content of the Code;
- specialized and technical information of a research nature required to permit officials and stakeholders to make informed decisions about options and approaches for the implementation of the Code.

Many fisheries administrators, scientists, industry representatives and stakeholders, particularly in developing countries, are disadvantaged because access to information is limited.

The collaboration between FishCode and the IAMSILIC 2005 Conference aims to promote:

- a greater awareness of the Code of Conduct and of the information requirements for its implementation, particularly in developing countries;
- increased quality and effectiveness of fisheries research, management and development in developing countries;
- improved dissemination and accessibility of fisheries information published in developing countries.

Two recent FAO publications have provided background information for the theme of the Conference. Copies may be requested from fi-library@fao.org:

- Fisheries information in developing countries: Support to the implementation of the 1995 FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. *FAO Fisheries Circular*. No. 1006. Rome, FAO. 2005.
- Report of and papers presented at the Regional Workshop on Networking for Improved Access to Fisheries and Aquaculture Information in Africa. Grahamstown, South Africa, 3-7 November 2003. *FAO Fisheries Report*. No. 740. Rome, FAO. 2004.